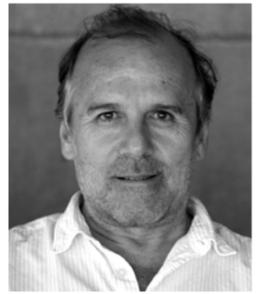


# SOLIS



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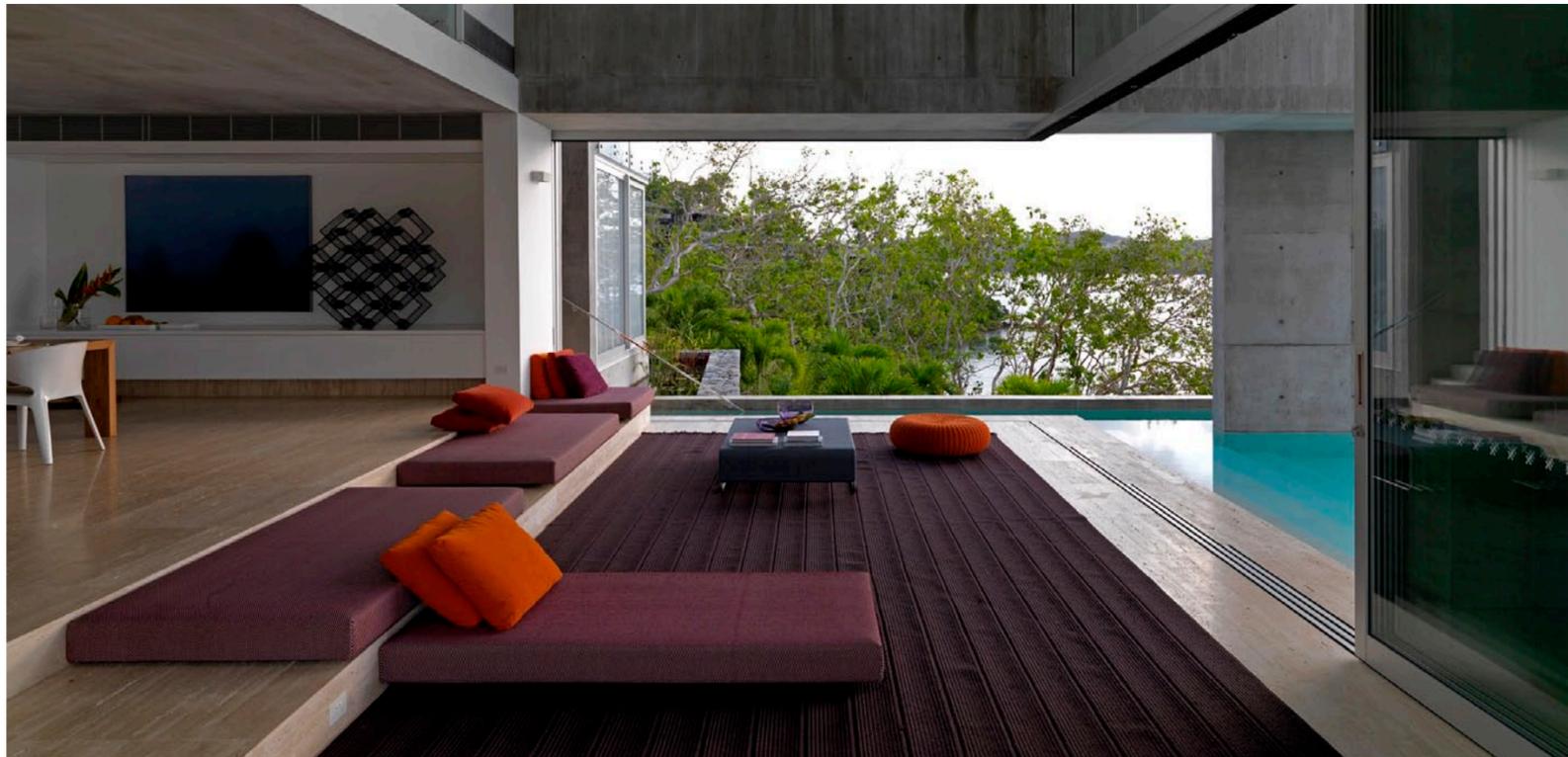
## ABOUT THE ARCHITECT

Renato D'Ettorre Architects Pty Ltd is focused on quality and creativity both within Australia and abroad. A boutique studio of only three architects and one interior designer, Renato D'Ettorre Architects draw inspiration and references from areas as wide as possible.

Renato D'Ettorre believes that each project presents an opportunity to explore aspects of phenomenology and the challenge of bestowing specificity. Avoiding tendencies toward preconceived solutions – which in turn overcomes formulaic designs – allows the unique elements of every site to be easily uncovered and inform the direction of design.

Renato D'Ettorre graduated Architecture in 1985 and has been in private practices since 1990. He worked for Pier Luigi Nervi and Paolo Portoghesi in Rome, Italy and Harry Seidler and Romaldo Giurgola in Sydney prior to starting his own practice.





**The Project:** Solis is what dreams are made of, a place of immersion in the natural world. A spectacular site overlooking Queensland’s Great Barrier Reef frames this sublime seaside holiday home. Luxurious and simple, the design focuses on uniting living with the air, the sun, the sea and the landscape and is the perfect example of the kind of casual living synonymous with Australia’s tropical north.

The sparkling greens and blues of the surroundings find their perfect canvas against the neutral tones of the house. Though simple in palette and transparent in structure, merely upon approach to the house one feels a keen sense of excitement to see what will be revealed inside.

Flowing down the landscape, wide steps lead onto the entry courtyard surrounding Lily-filled fishponds. Both the exterior and interior kitchen, lounge and dining areas are then revealed within a seemingly wall-less structure.

Exposed concrete and expanses of travertine afford the house a fresh, crisp skin that draws one’s eye immediately out towards the water and yonder islands. Punctuations of colourful furniture accents create a playful mood.

A wet-edge pool embraces the house and runs into the living space, making two disparate elements into one. Furniture fabrics are waterproof to ensure easy use of the spaces on those warm, tropical days. The pool is shaded in part by a cavernous, double-height enclosure. A large ceiling skylight with operable louvers moderates sunlight to the interior, making it bright and open. When inclement weather approaches, the house is easily secured.

Kitchen elements are essentially concealed from view, a deliberate attempt to remove traditional ideas of domesticity and zoned spaces from the home.

The first floor belongs exclusively to the master suite looking across the lounge below through glass to the azure waters. Sheer curtains offer a sense of privacy not really necessary in such a remote location, a fact that led to the entirely glazed en suite, with motorized roller blind if desired.

Guest suites are secluded and lack none of the comforts of the master suite itself, with private terraces the perfect spot for quiet contemplation.

Large gum trees and granite boulders strewn across the site provide stark contrast with the clean, elegant lines of the home, bestowing a dramatic atmosphere that enhances what is one of Australia’s most beautifully designed houses.

Photography by Mads Mogensen

